



By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

Cpl. James Rice, a resident of Stuttgart, Ark. currently serving with Company A, 39th Support Battalion, 39th Brigade Combat Team, teaches a young Iraqi boy how to "Gimme Five" as they sit outside the Baghdad Amanat (an Iraqi equivalent to a city hall) Sept. 28.

Mission Brings Shoes to Kids

By Sgt. Santiago Rubio
68th Chemical Company

BAGHDAD, Iraq- The 68th Chemical Company of the 1st Cavalry Division would have been content to collect a few hundred pairs of shoes for some Baghdad kids. Instead, the unit has received more than 5,000 pairs of flip-flops, sandals and sneakers from back home.

And the boxes kept coming.

1st Lt. Brian Cyr, the executive officer with the chemical company, started up the shoe drive nearly three months ago. With so many shoes delivered through his unit, he's bringing the drive to a close.

"We are mission com-

plete," Cyr said.

The 68th Chemical Company is currently serving in the Al Rashid district of southern Baghdad. The unit initially began the shoe drive when they saw that many Iraqi children had nothing on their feet.

Publicity from the event widened when Catholic News Services, a national newsletter, picked up the story. Shoe shipments came in from all over the United States as well as a few monetary donations.

Cyr, a Nebraskan native, said that seeing the children put on a new pair of shoes for the first time is something he will never forget.

"The joy on their faces

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Career Counselor Adds to Division Totals

By Spc. Andy Miller
122nd MPAD

AL-TAHREER, Iraq - For the final reenlistment ceremony of her career, Sgt. 1st Class Melissa McNorton wanted to do something special. So she asked her husband, recently promoted Chief Warrant Officer Charles McNorton, to reenlist her from Baghdad while she took the oath at Fort Hood via video teleconference. It was her husband's first reenlistment ceremony since becoming eligible by

his promotion to a commissioned officer.

The memorable event for the McNortons, both from the 1st Cavalry Division, came during a memorable month for the division's reenlistment team. The team, which is responsible for helping the division meet its reenlistment goals, met their lofty annual and quarterly reenlistment goals during the last month of the Army's fiscal year.

"Its kind of historic," Sgt. Maj. Merle Henry, the

1st Cavalry Division's command career counselor, said of meeting the reenlistment mission. "This is probably the largest mission the Cav's ever had. We're almost right on track with the annual mission that we've had in previous years, but yet during this year, we've been deployed, we've been in combat, and we've done half of it in one quarter. It was tremendous."

The team's mission is based on the number of Soldiers who are in their reenlistment window during

any given quarter. That window is determined by factors including a Soldier's time left in service, promotion status and physical fitness condition.

While always fluid, the window is normally stabilized when Soldiers leaving the Army at their expiration of term of service (ETS) are replaced by Soldiers entering into their reenlistment window. But because of the Army's current stop loss policy, no Soldiers can ETS until the division redeploys

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By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

Sgt. 1st Class Melissa McNorton, a career counselor with 1st Cavalry Division headquarters, is shown on a screen in Baghdad as she reenlists indefinitely from an office at Fort Hood. Her husband, Chief Warrant Officer Charles McNorton, a chief human resources technician with the 15th Personnel Services Battalion, swore in McNorton from Camp Al-Tahreer, Baghdad.

Cav. on Track with Iraq Reenlistments

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back to Fort Hood next year. Because these Soldiers remain in their reenlistment window longer than the typical 12 months before their ETS date, the Cav's quarterly reenlistment mission is higher than normal.

"In a sense the Cav has captured a higher percentage rate than what they had been tasked to do because we're not operating under the normal 12 month reenlistment window, we're operating under a much larger window," Henry said.

This higher percentage was captured with the help of Henry's 12 career counselor team on the ground in

Baghdad, and the division's retention NCOs doing their part to take care of Soldiers, Henry said. He calls the Cav's retention team the best in the Army. He said it's the reason the division was able to overcome challenges during this deployment like meeting mission, despite daunting reenlistment numbers and the difficulties posed by troops being stationed in different locations throughout Baghdad.

"The bottom line is that Cav spirit rolls again, it was a tremendous job by everybody. Nobody could stay on the sidelines to make this happen," Henry said.

Generosity Helps Iraqi Children

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is a lifetime of memories," he said.

The chemical company has distributed 1,000 pairs of shoes initially in one sitting.

"Then more boxes started coming in so we would take them out on patrol and hand them out to groups of kids and their mothers" he said. "Now the children have something on their feet to play soccer with and the soldiers couldn't be happier."

Cyr called the shoe donations a bright spot for his unit during this deployment. Twelve soldiers from the 68th have been wounded in combat since arriving in Baghdad.

Even with the hardships, Cyr said handing out the footwear has shown many people that most Iraqis are appreciative of U.S. efforts to bring peace.

"It has defiantly shown Soldiers that the majority of Iraqis are not the ones shooting at us," he said.



Courtesy 68th Chemical Company, 1st Cavalry Division

Iraqi children in the Al Rashid district of Baghdad show their glee, posing with 1st Lt. Brian Cyr, over receiving new footwear from the 68th Chemical Co.

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

How do I get there?
kayf aSil hunaaak

Tuesday
High: 98
Low: 70



Wednesday
High: 96
Low: 68



Thursday
High: 98
Low: 70



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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News Notes

Vendors Show Off Wares in Killeen

KILLEEN, Texas (*Killeen Daily Herald*) - Vendors showed off their work Saturday at the 37th annual Killeen Festival of the Arts, despite the rain and overcast skies. The festival, which is sponsored by the Killeen Civic Art Guild, continues from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. today in Killeen's Conder Park. "It's been interesting," said Bumble Bead Boutique vendor Johanna Johnson of Wichita Falls. Johnson and her sister, Jennifer Barrera of Stephenville, started the boutique in hopes of selling their jewelry, which includes bracelets, earrings and necklaces. Some of the designs include crystal beads.

Suspected Snake Shuts Cinema

HOUSTON (*Reuters*) - The film "Anacondas" is on the marquee of the Cinemark Tinseltown 290 cinema, but a suspected python has brought down the house. The northwest Houston megaplex closed Sept. 22 after a janitor reported seeing an 8-foot-long (2.40-meter-long) snake as thick as a man's arm in front of the screen in one theater, officials said. Cinemark USA Inc. enlisted a snake expert to help find the snake. The expert believes it could be a Burmese python based on the yellow color and skin description reported by the janitor.



Austin American-Statesman

Greg Alvarez of San Antonio, dressed as a member of the World War II-era 36th Infantry Division, charges the enemy during a battle re-enactment Sunday at Camp Mabry on Muster Day.

Chem. Destruction Brings Jobs

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (*Democrat-Gazette*) - An extra 700 people will be clocking into work at the Pine Bluff Arsenal next year when an incinerator fires up to destroy the arsenal's cache of Cold War-era chemical weapons.

The high-paying jobs for incineration workers, along with the \$80 million in federal funds pumped into Jefferson County and Arkansas since 1989 to prepare the area in case something goes wrong during the stockpile storage and demolition, are welcome in this southeast Arkansas county where unemployment rates have been substantially higher than the national average for decades.

"It has benefited the local economy with the influx of folks to work on that project. Some of those folks are naturally going to

purchase homes here for the duration of the incineration process," said David Matheny, president of the White Hall Chamber of Commerce. "Of course, they'll shop here and eat here."

Jobs are particularly welcome in the Pine Bluff metropolitan statistical area, which recorded an 8.9 percent unemployment rate in August. The unemployment rate in Arkansas and the nation as a whole was 5.4 percent.

But while White Hall, Pine Bluff and other cities near the arsenal welcome the influx of jobs and cash, some are already wondering what will happen when the last rocket is drained and the contractors close up shop. It's a question they share with people living near other stockpile sites including Anniston, Ala.; Hermiston, Ore.;

Tooele, Utah; and Pueblo, Colo.

These communities took on the risk of chemical exposure when the munitions were buried in their soil, and the risk continues as the furnaces fire up.



Democrat-Gazette

Toxic Material Leader Shawn Ross checks the empty shells at the Pine Bluff Arsenal.

Houston Wins Wild Card

HOUSTON (AP) - Phil Garner savored the taste of champagne, the smell of his cigar and the wild celebration going on in the Houston Astros' clubhouse.

Garner had known nothing but bitter endings after spending 10 mostly terrible seasons as a manager in Milwaukee and Detroit. He looked to be headed toward another awful year after taking over the slumping Astros at the All-Star break.

But Garner and the Astros capped an incredible late-season turnaround by winning the NL wild card, clinching Sunday by beating the Colorado Rockies 5-3 for their 18th consecutive home victory. Houston will face the NL East-champion Braves in a best-of-five series beginning Wednesday in Atlanta.

"This is almost just a



Houston Astros, including Pete Munro (53), celebrate their 5-3 win over the Colorado Rockies to clinch the NL wild card spot in the last game of the season Sunday, Oct. 3, 2004, in Houston.

big release," said a smiling Garner, drenched in the bubbly and clutching an unlit cigar. "People thought we were dead in the water and we worked all the way back and changed that. This is just a great ending to what became an improbable year for us."

Brandon Backe (5-3)

filled in admirably for an ailing Roger Clemens, pitching five strong innings and driving in two runs.

Houston won the final seven games of the regular season and nine of the last 10 to complete an amazing push for the playoffs under Garner, who replaced Jimy Williams.

Shark Tale Swamps Box Office

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The animated fish story *Shark Tale* swamped the competition, opening as the top weekend movie with \$49.1 million and potentially breaking the record for best October debut.

John Travolta and Joaquin Phoenix's firefighting adventure *Ladder 49* premiered in second place with \$22.8 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The new flicks bumped the previous weekend's top movie, *The Forgotten*, to third place with \$12 million, raising its 10-day total to \$38.3 million.

Woman, Thou Art Loosed, starring Kimberly Elise as a woman traumatized by childhood sexual abuse who lands on Death Row, opened at No. 6 with



Oscar (Will Smith) finds an unlikely ally in a shark named Lenny (Jack Black) in Dreamworks' *Shark Tale* - 2004.

\$2.5 million. Adapted from the book by Texas church leader T.D. Jakes, the movie opened in narrower release of 408 theaters, about a tenth of the number for *Shark Tale*.

Shark Tale and *Ladder*

49 lifted Hollywood out of its box-office doldrums. The top 12 movies took in \$104.4 million, up 30 percent from the same weekend last year, the first increase after four straight weekends of declining revenue.

"The box-office has been flatlining for the last month. September was absolutely abysmal," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations. "So *Shark Tale* and to a lesser extent *Ladder 49* really jump-started the marketplace."

If numbers hold when final figures are released Monday, *Shark Tale* would set a record among October debuts, topping the \$48.1 million opening of last year's *Scary Movie 3*.

In Brief

Twins Going to New York

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - The Minnesota Twins startled the New York Yankees in last year's playoffs by going to the Bronx and taking the first game of their first-round series - before losing the final three. Well, here comes Minnesota's second chance. Ben Broussard hit a two-run homer to lift the Cleveland Indians to a 5-2 victory over the Twins on a strange Sunday afternoon that sent the AL Central champs to Yankee Stadium for the start of the postseason.

Patriots Win 18th in a Row

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y.



(AP) - Tom Brady's arm and Richard Seymour's legs. You can't accuse the New England Patriots of running out of winning combinations. The quarterback and the defensive end teamed up to secure the Patriots' record-tying 18th straight victory, 31-17 over the Buffalo Bills on Sunday. Brady's performance was no surprise, putting New England ahead for good, with a 2-yard touchdown pass to Daniel Graham four minutes into the fourth quarter that broke a 17-17 tie. It marked the 16th time that Brady has led the Patriots to victory in the final 15 minutes or overtime.